

May 24th—	„	„	„	„	„	(These had disappeared by May 30th).
June 1st—	„	„	„	five	„	(Hatched June 5th).
June 3rd—	„	„	„	„	„	
June 3rd—	„	„	„	six	„	
June 21st—	„	„	„	five	„	

I was unable to associate so many nest failures of the Corn Bunting with any specific predator, with the exception of the Kestrel mentioned above on circumstantial evidence, but the large number of snakes and situation of nests—all within eighteen inches of the ground—indicated a possible cause.

A new race of Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus* Linnaeus from the Cape Verde Islands

by DR. W. R. P. BOURNE

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When he was collecting in the islands Boyd Alexander ("Ibis" (7) 4: 277) reported a difference in size between the kestrels from the north-western and south-western islands. When Murphy (Bull. Am. Mus. Nat. Hist., 94: 211) reviewed the birds of the group he had insufficient material to test this assertion, though he gives the dimensions of some birds from the islands. Bannerman (The Birds of Tropical West Africa, 1930-1951) was unable to detect any difference between the birds of different islands, but the measurements he quotes suggest that he only considered birds from the southern islands. I have recently received a list of birds collected in the islands by the "Blossom" South Atlantic expedition deposited in the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, Ohio. The birds in this collection from the northern islands of S. Antão, S. Vincete, S. Nicolau, and Sal are referred to the endemic race *Falco tinnunculus neglectus* Schlegel from S. Vicente; the birds from the southern islands of Boavista, Maio, S. Thiego, and Brava to some unspecified form differing from *Falco neglectus*. I have therefore examined the birds in the British Museum of Natural History to see if there is any difference between the population of different islands.

I found, when in the islands, that the birds of S. Vicente and S. Thiego differed in the field, those of S. Thiego appearing larger and more richly coloured, and frequenting the towns and cultivated areas to a greater extent. The small series taken by Alexander confirms this difference, the birds of the northern islands being smaller and more heavily marked on a paler ground. The difference in size is present in both sexes:

Origin: males	Number	Wing	Tail	Tarsus	Culmen
S. Antao, S. Vicente Raza, S. Nicolau	7	190-209 (198)	117-138 (127)	38-42 (40)	21-24 (21)
S. Thiego and Maio	8	209-229 (218)	137-149 (141)	38-45 (40)	21-23 (22)
<i>Females</i>					
S. Antao, S. Vicente Raza, S. Nicolau	5	203-213 (208)	131-142 (138)	39-42 (40)	22-24 (23)
S. Thiego and Maio	5	224-232 (228)	149-162 (154)	39-41 (40)	22-26 (24)

The birds from the inner islands resemble *F. t. carlo* from tropical east Africa and *F. t. canariensis* from the outer Canary islands in their measurements, but they are more heavily marked than *F. t. carlo* and darker than *F. t. canariensis*, while they are larger and darker but less heavily marked than *F. t. neglectus*. I propose to describe them as a new race:

Falco tinnunculus alexandri new race

Description: An intermediate form, similar in measurements to *F. t. carlo* and *F. t. canariensis*, but darker and more heavily streaked above and below than *F. t. canariensis*, and paler and much more heavily barred and streaked above and below than *F. t. carlo*, larger and darker and more rufous on the back, but less heavily streaked and barred above and below than *F. t. neglectus*. The sexes show parallel variations; measurements above.

Type: British Museum Registered Number 1911.12.23.470, an adult male taken on S. Thiego in the Cape Verde Islands by Boyd Alexander on 1 December, 1897 ("Ibis", (7) 4: 277). Measurements of type, culmen 21.5 mm., wing 220 mm., tail 148 mm., tarsus 39 mm.

Distribution: S. Thiego and Maio, and probably Fogo, Brava, and Boavista in the Cape Verde Islands.

Remarks: The forms of *Falco tinnunculus* found in the Atlantic Islands become progressively smaller, more heavily streaked, barred on the tail, and less rufous on the back towards the south-west, forming a stepped cline through *F. t. dacotiae* of the eastern Canaries, *F. t. canariensis* of the western Canaries, and *F. t. alexandri* of the south-eastern Cape Verde Islands to *F. t. neglectus* of the north-western Cape Verde Islands. *F. t. neglectus* and *F. t. alexandri* of the Cape Verde Islands bear the same relation to each other in that group that *F. t. canariensis* and *F. t. dacotiae* bear to each other in the Canaries, but both forms are more heavily marked, while the differences in size as opposed to colour are reversed. The range of *F. t. neglectus* is now restricted to S. Antão, S. Vicente, Raza, and S. Nicolau, and possibly Sal in the Cape Verde Islands.

The type locality of *Pelagodroma marina eadesi* Bourne

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When I made Cima the type locality of this race (Bull. Brit. Orn. Club, 73 (1953): 79) I overlooked the fact that the type is labelled "Rhombos Id., Brava". Cima is that one of several Rhombos Islands near Brava on which the type was taken, as the account quoted in the description shows.

Some Unusual Plumage Aberrations in the Great Tit, *Parus major* Linnaeus

by MR. BRYAN L. SAGE

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In my note on this subject (*antea* 75: 4), the first record quoted refers to a bird obtained at Wilmington, Yorkshire. This is an error, the specimen was in fact obtained at Wilmington, near Eastbourne, Sussex (see *A History of Sussex Birds* by G. Walpole-Bond, 1: 291).

I am indebted to Mr. I. G. Ferguson-Lees for drawing my attention to this error.